

We claim:

1. A peptide of the formula: $R^1 - X^1 - X^2 - R^2$
wherein X^1 is an aromatic amino acid residue;
5 X^2 is any amino acid residue;
 R^1 is $NH_2 -$ or an amino acid sequence $X^3 - X^4 - X^5$
wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having
a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or
10 different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is
a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the
same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues.

2. The peptide of claim 1
wherein X^1 is Phe;
 X^2 is Glu or Ala;
 R^2 is Gly-Gly;
20 R^1 is $X^3 - X^4 - X^5$ wherein
 X^3 is Thr,
 X^4 is Asp or Ala and
 X^5 is Ile or Ala.

3. The peptide of claim 1
wherein R^1 is $NH_2 -$;
 X^1 is an aromatic amino acid;
25 X^2 is Glu or Ala and
 R^2 is Gly, Gly-Gly, Gly-Gly-Gly or
sarcosine.

4. The peptide of claim 3
30 wherein X^1 is Phe and X^2 is Glu.

5. The peptide of claim 2 having an amino acid sequence
selected from the group

consisting of:

- 35 + (a) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:8);
+ (b) Thr-Ala-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:3);
- (c) Thr-Asp-Ala-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:4);
and

- W⁰ + (d) ⁴¹ Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:6).
6. The peptide of claim 3 having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- 5 W⁰ + (a) Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:9);
(b) Phe-Glu-Gly; and
(c) Phe-Glu-Sarcosine.
7. The peptide of claim 1 wherein R² is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of glycine, sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.
- 10 15 8. The peptide of claim 3 wherein R² is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of glycine, sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.
- 15 20 9. The peptide of ^{Claim 1} ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein at least one amino acid is a D amino acid.
10. The peptide of claim 4 or 6 wherein Phe and Glu are D amino acids.
- 25 11. A peptide having the amino acid sequence Ser-Gly-Glu-Gly-Val-Arg (Sequence ID NO:1).
12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide of ^{Claim 1} ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 30 35 13. A method for treating or preventing SIRS-induced hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of ^{Claim 1} ~~any of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 11~~ or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.
14. A method for treating or preventing anaphylactic

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hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~, or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

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15. A method of reducing or preventing an anaphylactic reaction in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a peptide of ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide to the mammal.

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16. A method of reducing or preventing an endotoxic reaction in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a peptide of ~~any of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 11~~ or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide to the mammal.

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17. A method for treating an inflammatory disorder in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of ~~any claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 10~~ or of an effective fragment or derivative of the peptide to the mammal.

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25. The method of claim 17 wherein the inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of a rheumatic disorder, inflammatory bowel disease, post-ischemic inflammation or systemic inflammatory response syndrome.

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30. 19. An antibody which specifically recognises an epitope of a peptide of ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~.

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35. 20. A method of determining the peptide SGP-T or the peptide SGPS in a biological fluid comprising obtaining a sample of the biological fluid and determining the peptide in the fluid by immunoassay employing an antibody of claim 19.

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